

Remarks:

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-14, 30-35, 37-42, and 44-46 were previously pending. Claims 1, 4, 8, 13, 31, 33, and 40 are amended herein. Thus, claims 1, 3-6, 8-14, 30-35, 37-42, and 44-46 remain pending with claims 1, 31, and 40 being independent and claims 9-12 being withdrawn from consideration.

Office Action

In the December 29, 2008, Office Action, the Examiner rejected:

- claims 1, 3-6, 8, 14, 31-35, 38, 40, and 41 as being obvious in view of Eggert (US 5,001,779) and Schoenfish (U.S. 6,370,037); and
- claims 13, 30, 37, 39, and 42 as being obvious in view of Schoenfish, Eggert, and Iredale (U.S. 6,392,877).

A Carry Case Including Electrical Connections and a Speaker

Each of the independent claims now recites that the carrying case includes “one or more electrical connections configured to electrically couple with the navigation device” and “a speaker coupled with at least one of the electrical connections and operable to generate sound corresponding to signals provided by the navigation device through one or more of the electrical connections.” One exemplary configuration is illustrated in FIG. 21:

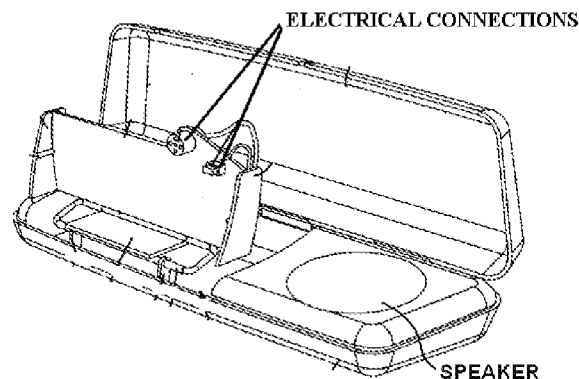


FIG. 21 (annotated)

The Examiner asserts that the combination of Eggert (newly cited) and Schoenfish (previously cited) teaches this structural configuration. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that Schoenfish's clip 14 could be replaced with Eggert's housing 42—thereby allowing Eggert's system to removably receive a navigation device (i.e., replacing the radio of Eggert with Schoenfish's navigation system).

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's combination of references cannot render the pending claims obvious for several reasons:

- A. Adding Schoenfish's docking station to the front of Eggert would defeat Eggert's waterproofing method and render Eggert unsatisfactory for its intended purpose – a waterproof boombox for motorcycles (see MPEP § 2143.01V – “The proposed modification cannot render the prior art unsatisfactory for its intended purpose.”) Eggert's radio is not removable because the housing 42 is vacuum sealed with a foaming plastic filler to render the entire housing 42 waterproof:

The bottom wall 128 of the mold housing 116, and the tops 130 and 132 of the portions 122 and 124 respectively of the insert are provided with apertures through which air may be drawn by a vacuum pump (not shown) attached to tube 134. With a vacuum applied to tube 134, the sheet 126 is drawn into the mold cavity to form a liner in the cavity as shown in FIG. 7. A foaming type plastic filler material is then placed in the lined cavity. With the filler material in the cavity, but prior to its foaming, portions of the liner extending outside of the cavity are folded over the top, and hinged cover 136 is closed. Thereafter, the resin material will foam or expand to fill the confined cavity to form the body of filler 98. Various types of plastics may be used to form the filler. A preferred form of plastic for the filler is a mixture of Urethane “A” and “B” components, one being a activator and the other a resin. After the foamed plastic filler has hardened, it along with the plastic liner 126, are removed from the mold housing 116 to provide the desired filler 98.

Eggert (col. 4 – annotated)

- B. Adding Schoenfish's docking station to the front of Eggert's boombox does not produce a carrying case that "substantially encloses" all sides of the navigation device as is recited in each of the independent claims;
- C. Regarding dependent claims 5, 34, and 45, the Examiner's combination does not produce a carrying case with a base and a hinged lid, such that the lid "encloses" the base when the case is closed. Eggert's cover 50 does not "enclose" Eggert's base because it only covers a small portion of Eggert's base.
- D. Regarding dependent claims 13, 37, and 44, the Examiner's combination does not produce a carrying case where the navigation device and speaker are both positioned within a lid of the case, such that when the case is open, the navigational device is in a viewing position. Eggert's radio positioned within its base and not within the cover 50.

Conclusion

In view of the forgoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are now in a condition for allowance. Any additional fee which is due in connection with this Amendment should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 501-791.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /Samuel M. Korte/
Samuel M. Korte, Reg. No. 56,557
Garmin International, Inc.
1200 East 151st Street
Olathe, KS 66062
(913) 440-5421
patents@garmin.com